

Board Legislative Report - May 9, 2023

The legislature convened the 2023 legislative session on April 23, 2023; passing the 2023-2025 biennium budget. While a few items which may require additional work by the legislature in special session (e.g. resolving laws in response to the Blake decision) all the public education related items appear fully resolved and anticipated to be signed by the Governor.

Note: while the budget has been passed by the legislature, it is possible for the Governor to enact line-item vetoes of legislature-approved funding or policy items. It is important to know that, while unlikely, this still remains a possibility in the final step of the budget process.

Key points:

- The Governor's budget released ahead of session set low expectations for realizing significant investments in public education funding for this budget. **Almost every education agency across the state was aligned around Special Education funding as the top priority for this budget. The concerted, collective statewide advocacy** - including from this Board, Superintendent, and our Student Representatives - turned the tide on this not being a key priority for this session and, while not fully closing the existing funding gap for this part of basic education, **got the most significant investment possible out of what remained at the end of session.**
- **Big wins for our students with expansions of free meals and dual credit options.**
- **Stable IPD/COLA established for staff.** Creates a predictable increase that can be better anticipated and planned for in the coming years.
- **Regionalization remained at the current rate.**
- **Minimal unfunded mandates.**

Our 2023 board legislative advocacy in review:

- Prior to session we held in person and virtual meetings with our legislators to share about district needs, goals, and priorities; including site visits at Edwin Pratt Early Learning Center and Parkwood Elementary, with a focus on fully inclusive learning.
- In December 2022 we adopted [legislative priorities](#) in line with our budgetary challenges, student / family / staff input we have received, and district goals; and provided our community with information on [how to participate in the process](#).
- Seeing the structural funding emergency unfolding here and across the state for public schools, in late January we sent [a letter to all the legislators on financial committees](#) outlining the converging elements creating this statewide public education funding shortfall.
- Our board tracked ~27 bills related to our priorities during session. We took repeated action (signed in, submitted written comment, testified, etc.) on 25 of those bills (the two we did not were duplicates not moving forward in the process). Our Superintendent, three Student Representatives, and three Board Members advocated in person in Olympia with all of our State Representatives and Senators, as well as the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and State Superintendent.

All of this combined directly contributed to all of the outcomes reflected below.

Key outcomes of this session as it pertains to Shoreline’s legislative priorities and funding considerations. How these items will specifically impact Shoreline’s funding and our anticipated budget is still being worked out by the district finance team.

PRIORITY	OUTCOMES
<p>Actualize Inclusive Special Education Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fully fund the true cost of fulfilling our students' rights to special education services by substantially increasing the multiplier, lifting the artificial cap, and preserving SafetyNet funding. ● Build an inclusive educator workforce through increased professional development and expanded training in certificated educator requirements. 	<p>Total budget investment: \$371.0 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increases in the excess cost multiplier for 3-5 year old Pre-K students and students in grades K–12 eligible for and receiving special education services (\$253.6 million) ● Lowering the safety net threshold from the current 2.3 times average per pupil expenditure (APPE) to 2.2 times APPE for districts with more than 1,000 students (\$5.5 million) ● Continuation of professional development focused on inclusionary practices (that is, the Inclusionary Practices Project, or IPP) (\$5.0 million) ● Grants for demonstration projects to build school- and district-level systems that eliminate student isolation, track, and reduce restraint use, and build school-wide systems to support students.(\$5.0 million)
<p>Support the Whole Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Realign and fund the staffing allocations for building and support positions needed to have comprehensive learning and care for students in each building (principals, asst. principals, deans, counselors, librarians, nurses, psychologists, family advocates, custodians, and front office and nutrition services staff). ● Build the mental / behavioral health service provider pipeline. ● Provide for universal school meals to ensure students have the nutrition needed for learning. 	<p>Total budget investment: \$25.9 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reimbursement for schools to offer free meals to all students at schools serving grades K-4; for schools at 40%+ Free & Reduced Lunch identified students in 23-24 and 30%+ F&RL in 24-25 and beyond. (\$25.9 million) ● No increases to any staffing allocations were made this year, however there was investment in school nurse training and first year teacher mentoring programs. ● All mental / behavioral health investments were for services provided by the Educational Service Districts (ESDs) or service providers, which may have some secondary benefit for our district, however is not growing the pipeline, per se.

<p>Respond to Regional Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish sustainable, ongoing parameters for district regionalization based on the true cost of living and labor markets regionally; keeping regionalization factors within 2-3% for neighboring districts. ● Create a predictable, regional approach to IPD / COLA salary increases to account for true cost of living. 	<p>Total budget investment: \$261.4 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regionalization maintained at 18%. Same amount as all our neighboring districts. ● Educator/staff salary increases: the inflationary factor, IPD, is 3.7 percent in the 2023–24 school year, and expected to be 3.9 percent in 2024–25. (\$261.4 million)
<p>Deliver on Promises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fund staffing and resources devoted to racial equity, including Ethnic Studies K-12 and Since Time Immemorial curriculum. ● Eliminate student costs for dual credit classes. ● Fund the true cost of transportation: fuel, fleet, and staffing. ● No unfunded mandates. Ensure all existing and new public school directives receive the necessary funding for implementation. 	<p>Total budget investment: \$43.17 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Running Start FTE Expansion: increase the Running Start enrollment funding from 1.2 FTE to 1.4 FTE and support Running Start in the summer for up to 10 credits per student (\$9.7 million) ● College in the High School (CHS): Institutions of higher education must provide enrollment and registration in CHS courses at no cost for students in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade at public high schools. (\$7.47 million) ● Transportation Safety Net: funding to support the transportation of special passengers, defined as: special education students that require transportation as a related service of their IEP; students experiencing homelessness requiring transportation under the federal McKinney-Vento Act; and students in foster care receiving transportation as required under the Every Student Succeeds Act. (\$26.0 million) ● Minimal unfunded mandates.
<p>Invest in Community Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adopt and fund the Dept. of Commerce recommendations for School Board Director compensation that will reduce the financial barrier to serving and support diverse, representative community leadership. 	<p>Report released mid-session. Too late for action this session; potential opportunity for advocacy next session.</p> <p>See the full report</p>